

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☒ **X**  
no ☐

Property Name: Bland-Bryant Building, Spring Grove Inventory Number: BA-2331  
Address: Spring Grove Hospital City: Catonsville Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: Baltimore County USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore West  
Owner: DHMH Is the property being evaluated a district? ☐ yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: \_\_\_\_\_ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
Site visit by MHT staff: ☐ no ☒ **X** yes Name: L. Bowlin, 1985 Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district? ☒ **X** yes ☐ no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: BA-2319  
NR-listed district ☐ yes Eligible district ☒ **X** yes Name of District: Spring Grove Hospital Center  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ☒ **X** yes ☐ no Non-contributing but eligible in another context ☐ yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ☐ yes ☐ no

Criteria: ☒ **X** A ☐ B ☒ **X** C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

#BA 157 (Bowlin, 1986); Project Review & Compliance Files; Spring Grove Architectural Survey Notebook

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, Baltimore County was initially determined eligible for the Maryland Register of Historic Properties in 1986. Trust policy is that any property eligible for the MRHP is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Spring Grove is eligible under Criterion A, events, as the first state-sponsored facility for the mentally ill. The hospital had its origins in 1797 where the indigent sick and insane were cared for in Baltimore. By 1872 the hospital had outgrown its site and the state chose a new 200-acresite in Catonsville. The District is also eligible under Criterion C, as an architectural example. The hospital center does not have a specific layout, but rather its growth and development are demonstrated through the construction of buildings in response to new needs and developments in the care of the mentally ill. The 1985 survey included 25 buildings built between 1872 and 1944. All are eligible contributing resources to the historic district.

[\*from Spring Grove Hospital Center DOE]

As a result of the recently completed survey, 25 buildings have been determined to be historically and architecturally significant to the development of public mental health care in Maryland at Spring Grove Hospital Center.

This property, BA-2331, Bland-Bryant Building, was included on the list of significant properties.

(See Bowlin, 1985)

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended ☒ **X** Eligibility not recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒ **X** A ☐ B ☒ **X** C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☐ None

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

BA-2331

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Bland-Bryant Building, Spring Grove

Page 2

Prepared by: L. Bowlin, 1985 (MHT)

Date Prepared: \_\_\_\_\_

BA-2331

1930

Bland-Bryant Convalescent Building    Public

Spring Grove Hospital Center

Catonsville

The Bland-Bryant Building, constructed of stone, rises three stories high and is capped by a truncated hip roof. The building is divided into a main block and projecting wings. Designed by Henry P. Hopkins, the building displays elements of the Georgian Revival style, including a large, classical portico.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bland-Bryant Convalescent Building

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Catonsville, Maryland vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 3

state Maryland county Baltimore

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<u>  </u> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other: Hospital

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

street & number 201 W. Preston Street telephone no.: 301-225-6816

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio

city, town Towson state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_ federal    state    county    local   

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Survey No. BA-2331

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Bland-Bryant Building, constructed in 1930, is a three story, stone building oriented in a westerly direction. The building consists of a main block and two large wings connected by intermediate wings. The building rests on a stone foundation and is capped by slate tiles decorating a truncated hip roof. Exhibiting classical elements, the Bland-Bryant building resembles the other stone buildings at Spring Grove constructed in the thirties decade.

The main block of the building, five bays wide and six bays deep, has a large classical portico. Four oversized Doric columns and two Doric pilasters support the full entablature of the portico. The stone columns are very plain in appearance but massive in size. The capitals of the columns are plain in detail as well, leaving the ornamentation to the entablature. Triglyphs run across the frieze. Modillions decorate the cornice. The underside of the modillions reveals an intricate design, patterned by vertical grooved cuts in the stone. In between the modillions, an additional decorative pattern occurs. Above the portico's cornice, set back from the edge, is a square parapet wall of stone.

The main block has alternating, smooth stone quoins on both corners. In addition, smooth stone is utilized for the water table. There is a simple wooden cornice above the rubble stone before the slate, hipped roof. The first and second floor windows reveal the same details: rough stone sills, radiating voussoir lintels, and wooden surrounds. All the windows have been altered to four modern panes. The main door has also been altered. It is a wide door with one northern sidelight and one large, single pane transom. A triangular pediment of stone surrounds the door. A band of rosettes frames the door. Two thin pilasters erupt into two swan neck supports which connect to the pediment itself. A dentil course decorates the cornice while modillions ornament the pediment.

Though the wings differ in size, they share many architectural elements. The connecting wings run three bays wide and three bays deep while the major wings are eight bays long and five bays deep. The smooth stone water table continues to ornament the wall. Similar stone forms the alternating quoins on the building's corners and as flat vertical lines against the wall. The windows receive the same treatment as the main block: rough stone sills, radiating voussoir lintels, and four modern windows. Metal air vents are randomly located throughout the facades. The wooden cornice is dentilled and modillioned. The truncated hip roofs are covered by the same sea green slate tiles. Dormers appear on all of the wings. The connecting wings exhibit five-sided dormers with two windows, shingled walls and wooden sills. A plain wooden cornice is attached to the flat roof. In contrast, the predominant wings have individual segmental arched dormers. The slate tiles cover the sides while copper sheathing provides the roofing material. The dormers are displayed on the eastern face of the building as well.

A modern, enclosed fire stairwell has been attached to the two main wings on the northern and southern ends. The additions measure the same height as the wings and are constructed of rock-faced stone, slightly lighter in color than the wings. The stairwells have plain, stone cornices and flat roofs. A door

SECTION 7 CONTINUED

exists on the ground level. The modern wooden door has four glass panes at eye level plus an additional five pane transom.

The eastern face of the Bland-Bryant Building demonstrates some changes in its appearance due to the contour of the land. Four full floors are visible and the water table divides the floors equally. The wings exhibit a slight variation in fenestration. Inside the flat, vertical quoins, the windows are grouped in triplets, sharing a continuous, rough stone sill and a single lintel of radiating voussoirs. The eastern portion of the main block loses a story but gains a flat roof as the portion extends in an easterly direction beyond the wings. Some of the original windows remain on the main block, showing a 12/12 double-hung sash protected by a wrought-iron railing.

The interior of the Bland-Bryant Building reflects many alterations due to changes in care policy. The building was constructed with wide open rooms for patient care while policy changes have dictated alterations to create more personal space. Many of the original details do not remain though the architectural ornamentation was limited.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. BA-2331

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1930 Builder/Architect Henry Powell Hopkins

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

and/or Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Bland-Bryant Convalescent Building was one of the first buildings designed by Henry Powell Hopkins to stand on the Spring Grove campus. The building, originally constructed for male patients, produced additional bed space which permitted a more thorough classification of the nature and severity of mental illnesses. The convalescent building demonstrated the increasing necessity of chronic care facilities on the hospital campus. Long term care became more prevalent as the hospital's population grew older and larger. The new convalescent building offered an additional capacity of 430 beds at a cost of \$460,000. This building touched off a fifteen year expansion period of the patient facilities at Spring Grove which nearly doubled the number of buildings on the complex.

Though the building has experienced numerous interior alterations, the overall design and materials have been maintained. The Georgian Revival features such as the hipped roof, classical portico, and stone quoins exemplify the use of classicism in institutional building. Though the windows have been replaced and dormers have been added, the architectural integrity has been retained and strengthened by the good structural condition of the building. The design of the building typifies many hospital buildings: a central block adorned by a large portico and two flanking wings.

Both Bland and Bryant served on the Board of Managers of the hospital and devoted their time to the benefit of the hospital. The convalescent building displays a cornerstone which lists the people responsible for the construction of the building; the names of Bland and Bryant head the list.

BA-2331

PS-2746





BA-2331

BLAND-BRYANT BUILDING  
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER  
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND  
ENTIRE EAST FACADE  
DON JEWELL, 4/86  
NEGATIVES AT MHT



BA - 2331

BLAND-BRYANT BUILDING  
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER  
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND  
EAST WALL  
DOW JEWELL, 4/86  
NEGATIVES AT MHT



BA- 2331

BLAND-BRYANT BUILDING  
SPRING GROVE HOSPITAL CENTER  
CATONSVILLE, MARYLAND

WEST WALL, ENTRANCE PORTICO

DON JEWELL, 4/86

NEGATIVES AT MHT